

Montana Water Court
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FILED
05/05/2023
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Montana Water Court
STATE OF MONTANA
By: D'Ann CIGLER
42A-0032-I-2023
Lambert, Kathryn
4.00

IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
YELLOWSTONE DIVISION ROSEBUD CREEK - BASIN 42A
INTERLOCUTORY DECREE

CLAIMANT: Alderson-Huffman LLC

CASE 42A-0032-I-2023
42A 30143637

NOTICE OF FILING OF MASTER'S REPORT

This Master's Report was filed with the Montana Water Court on the above stamped date. Please review this report carefully.

You may file a written objection to this Master's Report within **10 days** of the stamped date if you disagree or find errors with the Master's findings of fact, conclusion of law, or recommendations. Rule 23, W.R.Adj.R. If the Master's Report was mailed to you, the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure allow an additional 3 days to be added to the 10-day objection period. Rule 6(d), M.R.Civ.P. If you file an objection, you must mail a copy of the objection to all parties on the service list found at the end of the Master's Report. The original objection and a certificate of mailing to all parties on the service list must be filed with the Water Court.

If you do not file a timely objection, the Water Court will conclude that you agree with the content of this Master's Report.

MASTER'S REPORT

This claim appeared in the Preliminary Decree with the following remarks:

THE PLACE OF USE LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION COULD NOT BE REFINED FROM INFORMATION IN THE CLAIM FILE.

THE CLAIMED POINT OF DIVERSION IS IN QUESTION. THE LOCATION OF THE WELL CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED FROM AVAILABLE DATA.

The issue remarks were not addressed through the objection process. The Water Court is required to resolve the issues raised by each issue remark. Section 85-2-248, MCA.

Under Section 85-2-248(3), MCA, information in the claim file or other information obtained by the Court can be reviewed to determine if it provides a sufficient basis to resolve the issue raised by a remark and the Court can provide the claimant an opportunity to file additional information or evidence. On April 20, 2023 Claimant's Information Refining Point Of Diversion And Place Of Use was filed. This settlement document is viewable in the Court's FullCourt Enterprise case management system.

APPLICABLE LAW

"All issue remarks to claims that are not resolved through the filing of an objection as provided in 85-2-233 must be resolved as provided in this section." Section 85-2-248(2), MCA.

A properly filed Statement of Claim for Existing Water Right is prima facie proof of its content pursuant to section 85-2-227, MCA. This prima facie proof may be contradicted and overcome by other evidence that proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the elements of the claim do not accurately reflect the beneficial use of the water right as it existed prior to July 1, 1973. This is the burden of proof for every assertion that a claim is incorrect including for claimants objecting to their own claims. Rule 19, W.R.Adj.R.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Preliminary Decree states that the point of diversion and place of use legal description is NWNE section 31, T7S, R39E, BIG HORN. The legal description for each should be Government Lot 7, NWNE section 31, T7S, R39E, BIG HORN. The issue remarks should be removed as addressed and resolved.

2. The Preliminary Decree also includes the following notice remark:

THIS CLAIM NUMBER WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIN 43B TEMPORARY PRELIMINARY DECREE ISSUED 1/16/1985.

This remark should be removed as having served its notice purpose.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The information provided by the claimant is sufficient to resolve the issue remarks without evidentiary hearing. Sections 85-2-248(3) and (11), MCA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, this Master recommends that the Court make the changes specified in the Findings of Fact to correct the Preliminary Decree for this Basin. A Post Decree Abstract of Water Right Claim is served with this Report to confirm the recommended changes have been made in the state's centralized record system.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW

Service Via Electronic Mail:

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**POST DECREE
ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM
ROSEBUD CREEK
BASIN 42A**

Water Right Number: 42A 30143637 STATEMENT OF CLAIM
Version: 2 -- POST DECREE
Status: ACTIVE

Owners: ALDERSON-HUFFMAN LLC
HC 42 BOX 640
BUSBY, MT 59016

***Priority Date:** JANUARY 17, 1962

Type of Historical Right: FILED

Purpose (use): STOCK

Flow Rate: 8.00 GPM

***Volume:** THIS RIGHT INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF WATER CONSUMPTIVELY USED FOR STOCK WATERING PURPOSES AT THE RATE OF 30 GALLONS PER DAY PER ANIMAL UNIT. ANIMAL UNITS SHALL BE BASED ON REASONABLE CARRYING CAPACITY AND HISTORICAL USE OF THE AREA SERVICED BY THIS WATER SOURCE.

Source Name: GROUNDWATER

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

***Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1	7	NWNE	31	7S	39E	BIG HORN

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: WELL

Period of Use: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

***Place of Use:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1		7	NWNE	31	7S	39E	BIG HORN